AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Canceled).

2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented) A process for preparation of crystalline sodium or potassium (2S, 3S)-3-[[(1S-1-isobutoxymethyl-3-methylbutyl]carbamoyl]oxirane-2-carboxylate, comprising the following steps (1) to (6):

(1) hydrolyzing an ester of (2S,3S)-3-[[(1S)-1-isobutoxymethyl-3-methylbutyl] carbamoyl]oxirane-2-carboxylic acid, to obtain (2S,3S)-3-[[(1S)-l-isobutoxymethyl-3-methylbutyl] carbamoyl] oxirane-2-carboxylic acid,

(2) causing the carboxylic acid obtained in the preceding step *to* react with an organic amine, to prepare a salt of (2S, 3S) -3- [[(1S) -l-isobutoxymethyl-3-methylbutyl] carbamoyl] oxirane-2-carboxylic acid with the organic amine,

(3) adding an acid to the salt obtained in the preceding step, to obtain (2S, 3S) -3 -[[(1S) -1-isobutoxymethyl-3-methylbutyl] carbamoyl]oxirane-2-carboxylic acid,

(4) causing the carboxylic acid obtained in the preceding step to react with a basic sodium or potassium compound in a mixed solvent of water and an aliphatic alcohol or acetone, to obtain a sodium or potassium salt,

(5) recrystallizing the sodium or potassium salt obtained in the preceding step using an aliphatic alcohol, and

(6) drying the product recrystallized in the preceding step under reduced pressure.

4. (Previously Presented) A process for preparation of crystalline sodium or potassium (2S, 3S)-3- [[(1S)-1-isobutoxymethyl-3-methylbutyl]carbamoyl]oxirane-2-carboxylate, comprising the following steps (1) to (4):

(1) causing an ester of (2S, 3S)-3-[[(1S)-1-isobutoxymethyl-3-methylbutyl] carbamoyl] oxirane-2-carboxylic acid to react with a basic sodium or potassium compound, to obtain sodium or potassium (2S, 3S)-3-[[(1S)-1-isobutoxymethyl-3-methylbutyl] carbamoyl] oxirane-2-carboxylate,

(2) crystallizing the sodium or potassium salt obtained in the preceding step from a mixed solvent of water and acetone, to obtain crystalline sodium or potassium salt,

(3) recrystallizing the sodium or potassium salt obtained in the preceding step using an aliphatic alcohol, and

(4) drying the product recrystallized in the preceding step under reduced pressure.

5. (Canceled).

6. (Canceled).

7. (Canceled).

8. (New): Crystalline sodium (2S,3S)-3-[[(1S)-1-isobutoxymethyl-3-methylbutyl]carbamoyl]oxirane-2-carboxylate having the following characteristic:

DSC measured at a heating elevation rate of 2°C/minute: exothermic peak observed at a temperature in the range of 170 to 175°C with weight decrease.

9. (New) The crystalline sodium (2S,3S)-3-[[(1S)-1-isobutoxymethyl-3-methylbutyl]carbamoyl]oxirane-2-carboxylate as claimed in claim 8, which is in the form of crystalline needles.

10. (New) The crystalline sodium (2S,3S)-3-[[(1S)-1-isobutoxymethyl-3-methylbutyl]carbamoyl]oxirane-2-carboxylate as claimed in claim 8, which further has the following characteristic absorption bands of infrared absorption spectrum measured on KBr tablet: 3255, 2950, 2860, 1670, 1630, 1550, 1460, 1435, 1395, 1365, 1310, 1260, 1110, 890 cm^{-1}.